

Housewright

HEADQUARTERS CAMP DETRICK
FREDERICK, MARYLAND

Medical Bacteriology Division

28 December 1955

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

By this time you probably know that Dr. Atwood has decided to remain at Oak Ridge instead of accepting the position he was offered at Camp Detrick. His decision was quite a disappointment to me, and, in fact, to our entire research staff because all of us were in complete agreement that he was the best possible choice for the position. Your excellent recommendation confirmed the opinion we had formed during his visit here last August.

Because of our strong interest in Dr. Atwood during recent months we have not given serious consideration to anyone else as head of our genetics group. I would appreciate having any suggestions you may offer regarding a possible candidate for this position. We are interested in a person who is a capable investigator in fundamental microbial genetics who will consult with our applied groups. He must have the respect of other geneticists since he will need to select two or three other competent men for his group. An interest in pathogens would be of value but his research certainly would not be limited to such organisms.

Werner Braun's publications during the past few years, I believe, support the view that this position does offer opportunity for original work although I am not sure that this is generally known or accepted by workers in the field of microbial genetics. In addition, we can offer a better than average salary and next year we will move into a new building.

Your assistance in this matter will be appreciated. I also want to thank you for your very frank and honest appraisal of Tom Nelson. It is refreshing to have a professional evaluation of an applicant instead of the usual platitudes one normally receives from references.

Sincerely yours,

Riley D. Housewright

RILEY D. HOUSEWRIGHT
Chief, MB Division

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